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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Albanians Aiding Polish Dissidence

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Last week two or three more Poles were smuggled out of Poland by the Albanian Embassy in Warsaw, according to a Swiss Embassy officer. They had been issued Albanian passports. As of 12 January the Albanian embassy building was ringed with manned black Mercedes cars of the type favored by the secret police (UB).

COMMENT: The most famous escapee from Poland via this route was Kazimierz Mijal, a Stalinist opponent of party boss Gomulka, who left in early 1966. Mijal now presumably is directing the activities of the pro-Chinese "Polish Communist Party" which broadcasts Maoist type propaganda to Poland daily, and which claims to have established an underground "true" Communist party in Poland. We assume that the latest escapees are Mijal sympathizers.

The escapes may aid Gomulka in rebuffing what appears to be a stepped up bid for political power by hardline Interior

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Minister Moczar, who is in charge of the secret police. The UB was under a cloud for some time after Mijal's departure, and was just getting out from under it when these latest incidents came to light. [REDACTED]

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High-Level French CP Official Talks With Ceausescu

Georges Marchais, a member of the French CP's Politburo, talked with Rumanian party chief Ceausescu and ideologue Niculescu-Mizil during his 12-15 January visit to Rumania. The Marchais visit was at the request of the French party, according to Bucharest press media. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The talks probably centered on next month's consultative meeting of Communist parties in Budapest to which Bucharest has expressed indirect opposition. Prior to last April's meeting of Communist parties in Karlovy Vary, which the Rumanians boycotted, the French CP tried to persuade Bucharest to attend. It would appear that the French are trying the same tactic with respect to the Budapest conference.

Albanological Congress Opens in Tirana

The Second Congress of Albanological Studies, devoted to the 500th Anniversary of the death of Albanian national hero Skanderbeg, opened in Tirana on 11 January. Attending the conference are academic delegations from France, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Rumania and from the Kosmet, the predominantly Albanian autonomous province of Yugoslavia. There are also representatives from various groups in the U.A.R., Syria, Australia, Argentina, Turkey, Canada, Austria and the United States. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Tirana has not yet turned the celebration into an excuse to attack the West or blast "Soviet-revisionism". In view of the attention being given the affair by the Albanian news media, it is highly interesting that to date there is no mention of a Chinese delegation in attendance. Moreover, the presence of a rather impressive delegation from the Kosmet--including several journalists--may signal another positive step by Tirana in response to Belgrade's recent proposals for improved relations with Albania.

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East Germans Again Reject Bonn Offer On Postal Payments

The East German news agency ADN reported on 13 January that "competent quarters" in the GDR had rejected the "brazen" offer of West German Postal Minister Dollinger to pay 20 million Marks to the GDR for its postal services. Neues Deutschland on 14 January characterized Dollinger's 22 December 1967 letter as "provocatory," and denounced him for linking his "offer" with "impudent demands" that the GDR renounce its postal sovereignty and accept Bonn's "independent political entity of West Berlin."

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COMMENT: The East German rejection of Bonn's offer was expected. An ADN announcement on the 14th that the GDR postal authorities had updated Bonn's bill--to over 985 million Marks--indicates the East Germans will continue their all-or-nothing dunning policy.

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